Weyerhaeuser

Law Department
PO Box 9777
Federal Way, Washington 98063-9777
Air Express:
33663 Weyerhaeuser Way South
Federal Way, WA 98003

TRANSMISSION MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The information contained in this transmission is intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, please call us (collect) immediately at (253) 924-5317 to arrange for its return at our expense. Any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is strictly prohibited. Thank you.

April 1, 2003

TO:	**NAME:**	Examiner Everett White
	FIRM:	USPTO
	LOCATION:	Group Art Unit 1623
	FAX NUMBER:	703-746-5093
	TEL NUMBER:	
FROM:	**NAME:**	Keith Gehr
	MAIL ADDRESS:	Law Department – Intellectual Property Weyerhaeuser Company - CH 1J27 PO Box 9777 Federal Way WA 98063-9777
	TEL NUMBER:	253/924-2997
	FAX NUMBER:	253/924-3253

Total number of pages sent (including cover): 2
If there has been a transmission error, please notify the sender immediately.

MESSAGE:

Examiner Everett White
Group Art Unit 1623
Serial No. 09/875,177
Filed June 6, 2001

Informal Discussion Points for Phone Interview on April 8 at 2pm EST

There appear to be two major points that should be addressed in the Office Action mailed March 13. The first is the indefiniteness rejection for the use of the phrase "latent sources of chlorine dioxide". The second is whether the hypochlorite compound in the cited Besemer patent is in fact a latent source of chlorine dioxide.

Applicants will address the first point by noting that the chemistry of chlorine dioxide formation is well known, certainly within the pulp industry. Alkali metal chlorites and chlorates are standard recognized precursors of chlorine dioxide. In particular, alkali metal chlorites would be especially suitable latent sources in the context of the present invention.

The pulp industry throughout the world has made huge efforts to eliminate hypochlorites as bleaching agents. However, until the present these have been standard secondary oxidants in formation of carboxylated cellulose using various nitroxide compositions as primary oxidants. Applicants would note that the emphasis of the present invention has been on a process that totally *eliminates* the need for hypochlorites in this reaction. This should be very evident in the Title; in the broad statement of the invention at page 1, lines 9-11; in the Summary at page 8, lines 6-7; and at other locations in the specification. With the understanding that no hypochlorite is used by Applicants, it is a far stretch to presume that the hypochlorite used by Besemer could be a latent source of chlorine dioxide. Further the chemistry is such that hypochlorites are not chemical precursors of chlorine dioxide. The chemistry simply doesn't work that way. One cannot in any practical way make chlorine dioxide from hypochlorites.

Applicants will be pleased to show standard published references regarding preparation of chlorine dioxide from alkali metal chlorites as well as references showing the impractibality of forming chlorine dioxide from hypochlorites, if that would be helpful to the Examiner.

Applicants are certainly open to answer questions of the Examiner or to suggestions that might help expedite prosecution.

Keith Gehr
Agent for Applicants